

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AS-01 /027 W

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O P 221225Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 435

INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2233

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS TO USDEL NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SU, ET

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SUDANESE ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING
RELEASE OF CISCO II AND KAGNEW II

REF: USDEL SECTO 13001

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE APPROACH AUTHORIZED REFTEL,
SENIOR MINSTATE AT PRESIDENCY TOLD AMBASSADOR SEPT 22 THAT HE
DEPLORED TERRORIST ACTIONS SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING CICSO II AND
KAGNEW II. HE PROMISED EXAMINE QUESTION URGENTLY AND HOPED
WAY COULD BE FOUND FOR GOS TO BE HELPFUL IN SECURING RELEASE
HOSTAGES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY OF BOTH VP BAGHIR AND PRESIDENCY
SECGEN AL KHIDER (WHO AS MININT FACILITATED GOS COOPERATION
IN TENNECO CASE) I ASKED SEE MINSTATE PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS
FAISAL MUHAMMED ABDEL RAHMAN AL-KIBEIDA ON RECEIPT REFTEL
MORNING SEPT 22 AND WAS RECEIVED IMMEDIATELY. BECAUSE KIBEIDA
IS NIMEIRI'S HONCHO FOR FLOOD RELIEF OPEOYLIONS, I BEGAN BY OUT-
LINING STEPS USG CONTEMPLATING WITH RESPECT THIS HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE. KIBEIDA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND INDICATED

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HELP CONTINUED BE BADLY NEEDED.

2. I THEN SAID THAT, IN OUR TURN, WE WISHED SOLICIT GOS HELP ON SIMILAR HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. KEY ROLE IN FACILITATING RELEASE TENNECO HOSTAGES YEAR AGO HAD BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATED IN WASHINGTON. WE WERE NOW FACED WITH SIMILAR SITUATION INVOLVING FOUR AMERICAN CITIZENS, TWO OF THEM USG EMPLOYEES. IN LIGHT PUBLIC ASSURANCES PLF LEADER SABBE, WE HAD EARLIER ASSUMED CISCO II WOULD BE RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY BUT SEPT 12 CAPTURE TWO ADDITIONAL AMERICANS MADE IT CLEAR THIS NOT PLF INTENTION. I THEN RECALLED TO KIBEIDA OUR STANDARD POLICY AGAINST ACCEDING TO TERRORIST DEMANDS OR OTHERWISE NEGOTIATING ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES. AT SAEM TIME, WE WERE NATURALLY CONCERNED RE SAFETY AMERICAN CITIZENS. IN ADDITION OBVIOUS HUMANITARIAN REASONS, AS WELL AS DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USG AND GOS, SUDAN'S SPECIAL POSITION STEMMING FROM NIMEIRI'S CONTINUING MEDIATION EFFORTS APPEAR TO US TO PUT GOS IN EXCELLENT POSITION TO BE OF SPECIAL HELP IN CONVINCING ELF/PLF TO RELEASE THESE FOUR AMERICANS PROMPTLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY. WHILE SUDANESE WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE OWN IDEAS HOW TO PROCEED, IT COULD WELL BE POINTED OUT TO ERITREANS THAT, IF THEY DESIRED FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY FOR THEIR CAUSE, KIDNAPPING ACTION IS CERTAINLY NOT THE WAY TO OBTAIN IT. I CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS HAD COME DIRECTLY FROM THE SECRETARY'S DELEGATION IN NEW YORK, AND SAID THAT USG WOULD OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATE ANYTHING GOS MIGHT DO TO BE HELPFUL.

3. KIBEIDA REACTED POSITIVELY. HE DEPLORED TERRORISM AND AGREED ERITREANS WOULD NOT GAIN NOTHING BY CONTINUING HOLD INNOCENT HOSTAGES. HE ASKED WHETHER USG HAD APPROACHED OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND IF PLF HAD MADE ANY DEMANDS. I REPLIED UNDERSTOOD SAUDIS ALSO BEING APPROACHED BUT IT WAS FELT SUDAN PARTICULARLY WELL PLACED VIEW NIMEIRI'S MAJOR MEDIATION EFFORTS. AS TO PLF DEMANDS, NUMBER HAD BEEN REFERRED TO IN MEDIA BUT I WAS UNAWARE THAT WE HAD RECEIVED ANYTHING AUTHORITY. KIBEIDA SAID HE HOPED GOS COULD BE HELPFUL. NOTING MATTER OF SOME URGENCY, I COMMENTED PERSONALLY TO KIBEIDA THAT I UNDERSTOOD "MEDIA" HAD REPORTED EXECUTIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 3 IF DEMANDS NOT MET (CF ASMARA 0798). ADDED THAT THERE SHOULD OF COURSE BE NO REFERENCE TO USG

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APPROACH IN ANY GOS CONTACTS WITH ERITREANS. KIBEIDA AGREED.

4. COMMENT: IN ABSENCE BOTH BAGHIR AND AL-KHIDIR, BELIEVE KIBEIDA FASTEST CHANNEL TO NIMEIRI. MOREOVER, HIS JOB DESCRIPTION INCLUDES LIAISON ROLE BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND SECURITY SERVICES WHO RESPONSIBLE MOST CONTACTS WITH ERITREANS. WHILE I DID NOT OF COURSE REFER REAL SOURCE OF OCT 3 DEADLINE DATE, I FELT IT DESIRABLE ALLUDE TO THIS POINT

INDIRECTLY IN EFFORT STIMULATE FASTEST FEASIBLE
ATTENTION TO OUR REQUEST BY SOMEWHAT SEDENTARY SUDANESE.
BREWER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NEW YORK.

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NNN

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